

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0064] According to one aspect, heart valve leaflet removal apparatus of the present invention comprises a pair of cooperating cutting elements, a holder and members for manipulating the cutting elements. The cooperating cutting elements are adapted for cutting and removing leaflets from an aortic valve in a patient's heart, one of the cutting elements is rotatably coupled the other of the pair of cutting elements. The holder is coupled to one of the cutting elements and is adapted to receive the cut leaflets and the cutting elements and holder are configured for delivery to the valve leaflets through an aortotomy formed in a patient's aorta. In one variation, the pair of cooperating cutting elements and holder have a radial dimension and are radially collapsible. Replacement valve delivery apparatus also is provided.